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**FTAA - COMMITTEE OF GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES ON THE PARTICIPATION
OF CIVIL SOCIETY**

COVER SHEET

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ISSUES ADDRESSED (Check all that apply)

Agriculture		Subsidies, Antidumping and Countervailing Duties	
Competition Policy	X	Civil Society	X
Dispute Settlement		Electronic Commerce	
Government Procurement		Smaller Economies	X
Intellectual Property Rights		The FTAA Process	X
Investment		Other:	
Market Access	X		
Services			

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – 2 pages maximum – (see Open Invitation):

FTAA COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

In what follows, I attempt to outline the reasons for streamlining the economic integration of the Americas, namely: expansion of markets, economies of scale, increasing the competitiveness of the region as a whole, and promoting the development of the region's most marginalized and depressed countries.

Based on these premises, the stages of economic integration between the member countries are roughly the following:

- 1. Preferential Agreement:** reduction of tariffs or of other forms of protection and preferences to stimulate trade.
- 2. Free Trade Area:** total disappearance of tariffs and of other types of para-tariff barriers.
- 3. Customs Union:** common external protection, single tariff for goods from non-member countries.
- 4. Common Market:** free movement of production factors: labour and capital.
- 5. Single Market:** elimination of physical borders and of technical and tax barriers. Regulatory reciprocity.
- 6. Economic Union:** coordination of macroeconomic, monetary, fiscal and exchange policies.
- 7. Monetary Union:** creation of a single currency or agreement on use of the most stable, and therefore strongest currency (u.s. dollar).
- 8. Full Economic Union:** following a common economic policy and, as a result, a union of nations creating a new country.